

Claims

I claim:

1. A process for reshaping or refitting an interior of a socket of a prosthetic device comprising the steps of:

filling at least a portion of a socket of a prosthetic device with a moldable curable material;

placing a latex sheath (condom) over an end of a residual limb;

placing a space creating material between a bottom of the socket and the latex sheath ;

inserting the sheath covered residual limb into said socket filled with the moldable curable material; and

removing said residual limb from the socket filled with moldable curable material after said moldable curable material has assumed a shape of the end of the residual limb to create a new socket having a substantially complementary shape of the end of the residual limb.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein said step of inserting the sheath covered residual limb further comprises applying downward pressure to a distal end of the residual limb to create compression that causes excess moldable curable material to be forced upward and downward along the interior side of the socket.

3. The process of claim 1 further comprising removing excess moldable curable material from the exterior of the prosthetic device.
4. The process of claim 1 further comprising placing a space creating material at a bottom of a socket in a prosthetic device.
5. The process of claim 1 further comprising inserting a socket pin of a gel liner into an opening in the space creating material before inserting the space creating material into the socket.
6. The process of claim 1 further comprising passing a socket pin of a gel liner through an opening in the space creating material.
7. The process of claim 1 further comprising depositing moldable curable material onto an exterior surface of the sheath before inserting the sheath covered residual limb into said socket.
8. The process of claim 1 further comprising removing irregular areas in new socket by repeating the process by applying a thin application of moldable curable material to the interior of the socket.
9. The process of claim 8 wherein removing said irregular areas in the new socket comprises sanding down the irregular areas.

9 . A process that reduces costs associated with maintaining prosthetic devices, the process extends the useful life of a prosthetic device by eliminating the need for a new prosthetic device when a size of an end of a residual limb shrinks, the process includes a method for reshaping or refitting an interior of a socket of a prosthetic device comprising:

depositing a moldable curable material into an interior of a socket of a prosthetic device;

covering an end of a residual limb with a sheath;

inserting the end of the residual limb covered by the sheath into the socket of the prosthetic device to cause the moldable curable material to conform to the shape of the end of the residual limb; and,

removing said residual limb from the socket after said moldable curable material has assumed a shape of the end of the residual limb to create a socket having a substantially complementary shape of the end of the residual limb.

10. The process of claim 9 wherein said inserting the sheath covered residual limb further comprises applying downward pressure to a distal end of the residual limb to create compression that causes excess moldable curable material to be forced upward and downward along the interior wall of the socket.

11. The process of claim 9 further comprising removing excess moldable curable material from the exterior of the prosthetic device.

12. The process of claim 9 further comprising placing a space creating material at a bottom of a socket in a prosthetic device.

13. The process of claim 9 further comprising inserting a socket pin of a gel liner into an opening in the space creating material before inserting the space creating material into the socket.

14. The process of claim 9 further comprising passing a socket pin of a gel liner through an opening in the space creating material.

15. The process of claim 9 further comprising depositing moldable curable material onto an exterior surface of the sheath before inserting the sheath covered residual limb into said socket.

16. The process of claim 9 further comprising removing irregular raised areas in new socket.

17. The process of claim 16 wherein removing said irregular raised areas in the new socket comprises sanding down the irregular raised areas.

18. A prosthetic device comprising a socket formed by depositing a moldable curable material into an interior of a socket of a prosthetic device and inserting a

covered end of a residual limb into said socket to cause the moldable curable material to conform to the shape of the end of the residual limb.

19. The device of claim 19 further comprising a socket that comprises hardened moldable curable material having a substantially complementary shape of the end of the residual limb.

20. A process for shaping an interior of a socket of a prosthetic device comprising the steps of:

placing a latex sheath over an end of a residual limb;

deposited moldable curable material onto an exterior surface of said latex sheath;

placing a space creating material between a bottom of the socket and the latex sheath;

inserting the sheath covered residual limb into said socket filled with the moldable curable material; and

removing said residual limb from the socket filled with moldable curable material after said moldable curable material has assumed a shape of the end of the residual limb to create a new socket having a substantially complementary shape of the end of the residual limb.